

Iowa Hunter Education Program Hunting Incident Report

January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003



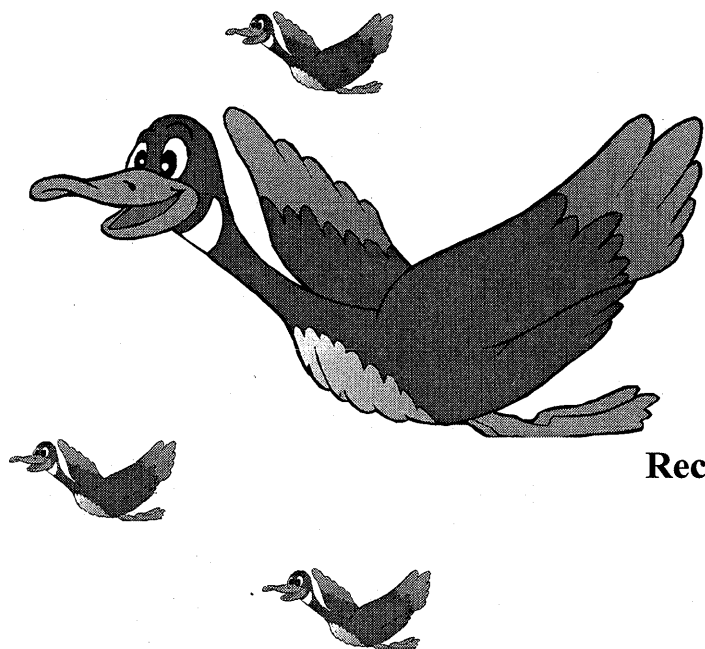
Iowa Conservation Officers practicing their skills and knowledge in “Search of” the factors of the physical evidence in the prevention of hunting incidents.



**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director**

February 2004

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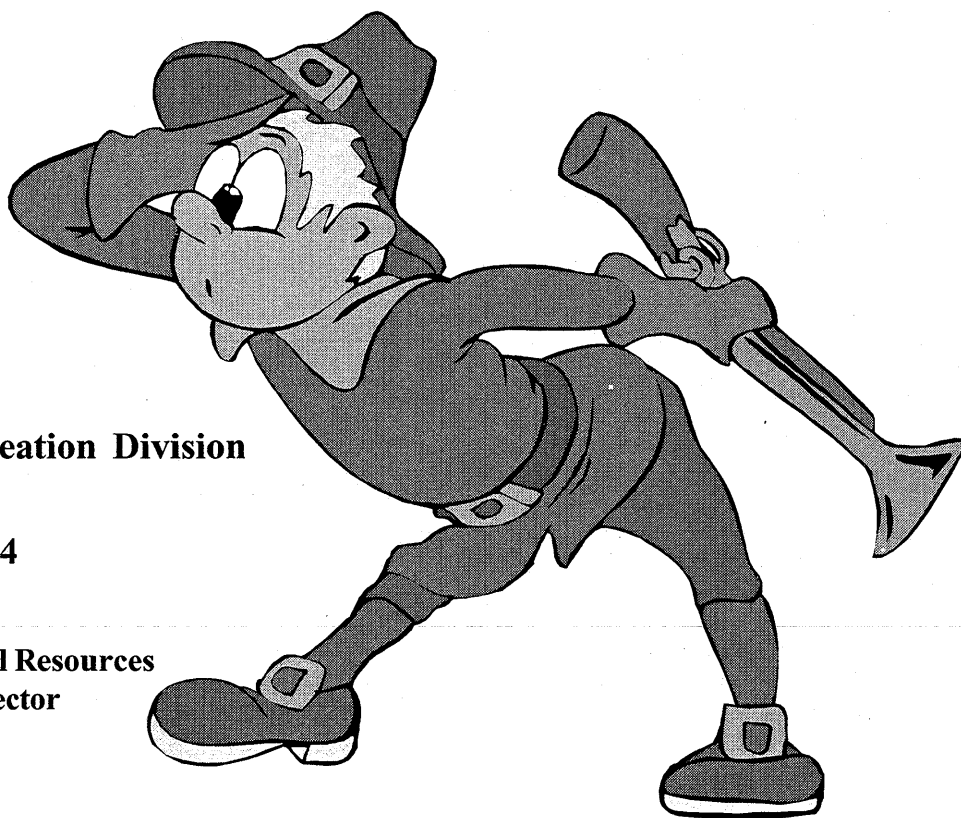


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2003 Iowa Hunting Recap

The 2003 Hunting Incident Recap is a synopsis of incidents that occurred through out the state. We would like to thank those involved in these incidents for their cooperation in sharing their stories. Each year we investigate hunting related incidents in our mission of prevention. It is imperative to find out how and why these incidents occur. The pieces of the puzzle are joined together to create a picture of each occurrence. With that, comes a lesson in prevention and hunter education curriculum focus.

Iowa DNR Officers work very hard to uncover the facts of each incident. Dealing with these sometimes-emotional cases can be difficult. These incidents can be some of the most traumatic experiences a hunter and their companions will endure in a lifetime. The people we choose to share the hunt with are our family and closest friends.

Hunter education has been proven key in the reduction and continuing low incident numbers based on the thousands of hunters that carry on Iowa's rich hunting tradition. Forty-one incidents for 2003 are an increase over the twenty six in 2002, but hunter numbers were also up. With the state's abundant wildlife resource license sales continued to be very strong during 2003. Small game (pheasant, quail, rabbit, squirrel, coyote, ruffed grouse and partridge) resulted in 250,000 hunting licenses sold. Turkey hunting license sales have climbed steadily to 74,000 tags. The world class deer that the Iowa landscape supports resulted in sales of 322,000 permits.

Once again, we want to thank those devoted volunteers that read and apply the lessons learned in the classroom from each of the incidents. In 2003, 11,969 students completed the Iowa Hunter Education program. It is the volunteer hunter education instructors that help keep the incident numbers low. These dedicated volunteers give of their most valuable commodity, their time. The heritage of hunting is very important to these people and keeping it a safe outdoor activity is their priority. Instructors are always encouraged to provide more classes to meet the late fall demand when interest is high. Their tireless efforts are to be commended in the mission of continued safe hunting in Iowa.

Recreational Safety Program Unit



Words from the Recreational Safety Officers

Words from Marty Eby - District One RSO

Hard to believe the fall hunting seasons have come and gone so quickly. Hunters in NW Iowa had mixed success depending on the species of game being hunted. I believe we had four hunting incidents in District 1 last fall - all four were personal injury related with one fatality -- two were self inflicted and two were shot by other hunters in the same party.

This was probably one of the worst waterfowl seasons I can remember as we had very dry conditions with all the pothole areas dried up. Goose hunters had good local numbers of Canada geese to harvest while ducks were slim to none.

The pheasant hunting was marginal at best even though we had high bird numbers. The pheasant hunting pressure was like none I had seen before as large numbers of hunters were here the entire season. Snow in the middle of November pushed the birds to the farm groves and heavy cattails making them hard to hunt.

Deer season should have provided everyone with as much venison as they needed. We sold a record number of tags and deer were plentiful and easy to come by if you put in your time.

Remember don't sweat the small stuff - AND - it is all small stuff!

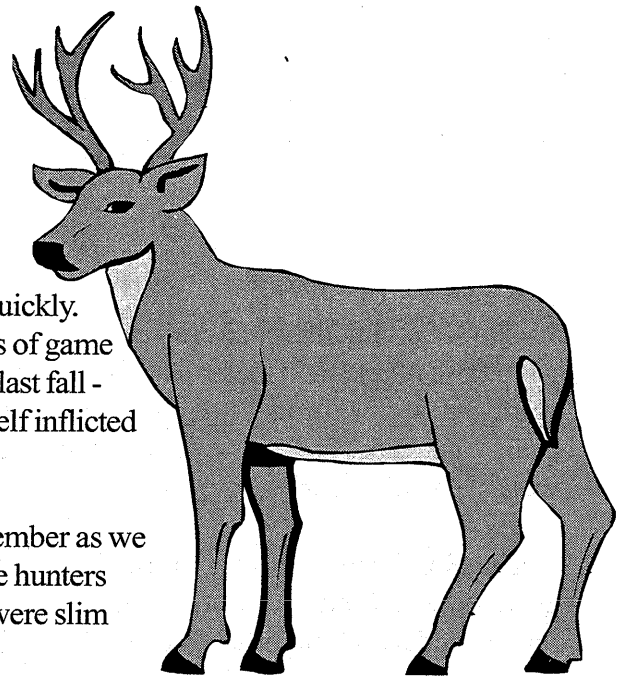
Words from Pat Jorgensen - District Two RSO

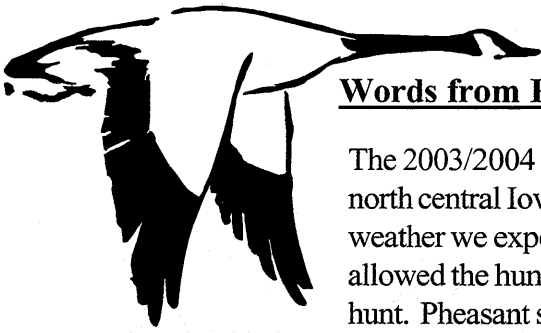
The 2003 hunting season in Northeast Iowa was a successful one. Speaking with local officers the pheasant season proved successful for many hunters especially in the SE portion of the district and most hunters had at least one bird in the bag opening day. Many non-resident hunters took to the public hunting areas and the Iowa River Corridor was one that produced many birds for hunters. Officers also reported that this year seemed to be one of the busiest deer seasons of their careers with activity in some counties keeping officers busy 24/7. Deer hunter success was apparent throughout the season and many took advantage of the antlerless licenses the bureau offered this year.

Words from Dale Anderson - District Three RSO

Fall hunting in SW Iowa had its ups and downs with more ups than downs. The season started with one of the most successful duck openers we have ever had. By 8:00 am, most duck hunters at the Riverton Area had limited out without much effort. That left plenty of time for the slower trigger pullers to get their limits, too. The upland bird hunting was a little better than previous years with the season ending with a flurry of activity. Good snow cover helped account for good success for the souls who were brave enough to venture out. As far as deer hunting goes, I think that everyone who wanted to fill their freezers had no problems doing it. With more deer than ever and less restrictive regulations, venison is now in good supply around here.

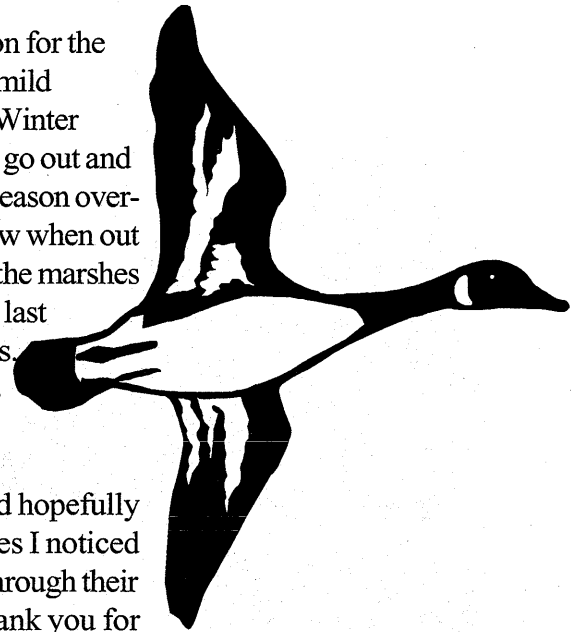
In terms of enforcement, SW Iowa officers made more airplane flights than usual this year with a corresponding increase in the number of good cases made. Eyes of poachers in this corner of the state probably look skyward more than ever - and for a good reason.





Words from Randy Schnoebelen - Conservation Officer Cerro Gordo

The 2003/2004 Fall and Winter hunting season for the north central Iowa region was excellent. The mild weather we experienced in the Fall and early Winter allowed the hunters plenty of opportunities to go out and hunt. Pheasant season was probably the best season overall. Hunters were constantly talking about the number of birds they saw when out in the field. Waterfowl hunting had its good days and bad days. With the marshes being so dry, the ducks were not going to the usual "watering hole" as last year. Waterfowl hunters had to do a little more scouting for the ducks. The duck hunter, who stayed with and worked at it, found the ducks and had an enjoyable season.



Overall, the majority of the deer hunters had a successful harvest and hopefully made an impact on the deer population. While checking deer licenses I noticed quited a few hunters who made a contribution to the HUSH program through their license purchase. If you also made that contribution to HUSH, I thank you for helping support this program

Words from Craig Jackson - District Four RSO

The fall hunting season in SE Iowa has been a good one and also a very busy one for our Conservation Officers. The pheasant numbers have been better this year and the number of hunters is also up. The success rate of the pheasant hunters is good and there were a lot of non-resident hunters afield. Due to the warm weather, the duck hunting was about the same as the past few years.

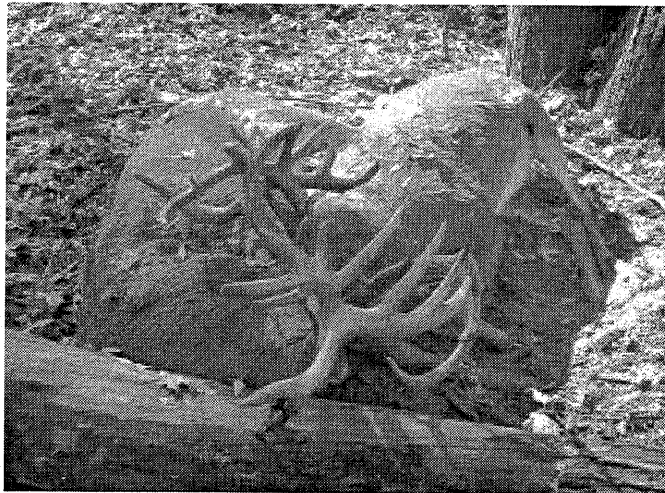
Conservation Officers have been making a lot of good deer cases throughout November and December. The deer hunters seem to be trying to take more does to help thin the herd. Some hunting parties want to shoot the big bucks early and then will take a doe toward the end of the season. Unfortunately, by then the does are hard to come by and sometimes the hunting party goes home empty handed.

Words from Allen Crouse - District Six RSO

The hunting season was a good one. Pheasant numbers were up and so were the pheasant hunting incidents. The deer harvest looks to be as good as previous years; and District 6 did not have any fatal deer hunting incidents this year. Due to the publicity the Albia buck got this year, poaching seemed to be as bad as ever in District 6. Several officers made multiple deer cases this year.

Interesting Stories 2003

Bucks found interlocked at George Wyth State Park



The two bucks (pictured above) were found locked together at George Wyth State Park. The bucks were discovered near the bike trail. One buck was a 23 pointer and the other was a 10 pointer. The 23 point buck appeared to have died first and from the rustled leaves and tracks made in the area it looks like the 10 point buck had struggled to break free but later died. Conservation Officer Mike Bonser (Bremer and Black Hawk Counties) was notified a week later after the discovery of these two bucks that another pair of locked bucks were found dead in the park also.

Possible New Bow Record?????

On Friday November 14, 2003 Brian Andrews of Independence harvested a large buck (pictured to the right) in Buchanan County. The Buck scored 253 1/8 on the official scoring system of the Boone and Crocket Club. It had a 20 4/8 inches inside spread of the main beams and the total length of all of its abnormal points was 58 7/8 inches. This magnificent buck could be Iowa's new record for white tailed deer harvested by means of archery.



Painting: Big Country Bucks - Larry Zach

Albia Buck

World abuzz over death of legendary Albia buck

By Juli Probasco-Sowers

Register Staff Writer

10/11/2003

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A shot from Tony Lovstuen's muzzleloader ended a legend among whitetail-deer hunters world-wide.

The record class animal - with its prized antlers - shot by the Albia teenager last week was recorded on video, in photos and in paintings, and was discussed on the internet.

"The buck is in a class all its own. There were hunters from all over the United States, even the world, who were trying to get deer tags to hunt in Iowa because they wanted to hunt the Albia buck," said Dale Ream, an official measurer from Missouri for the Boone & Crockett Club, an organization that scores and records antlers and horns from North America trophy game. The club has the most widely recognized scoring system.

The fact that the buck, sought by so many hunters, was finally shot by a 15-year old added to the buzz. Tony killed the animal during youth deer season.

Doug Lovstuen, his father, said he has been getting calls from newspapers and magazines all over the United States. He's not releasing details or photos of the potential record rack, or allowing interviews with Tony, because he's negotiating with hunting magazines and other hunting interests.

One estimate by a wildlife official put the value of the rack at more than \$100,000, but there's been no official value released.

The rack from the 250 to 300 pound deer could become a world record as the largest taken by a hunter as reported by Boone & Crockett, at a little over 322 inches. It also will likely become an Iowa record, and a world record for a buck taken by a muzzleloading firearm.

Conservation officer Randy McPherrren, who also helped score the rack, said the antlers had eight normal symmetrical tines and 30 abnormal tines of varied sizes pointing in different directions. Antler scoring is done by a formula that takes into account symmetry, tine length, circumference and the size of the beam, the two main shafts of the antler from which tines grow.

The legend of the Albia buck - named for its home range around Albia in Monroe County - spread after three or four years of impressive antlers shed by the animal were found. The racks were measured, but shed racks can't be entered in Boone & Crockett.

According to the Iowa Web site www.iowawhitetail.com, a bow hunter once came close to the deer while hunting but never had a clear enough shot to ensure that he wouldn't wound the animal, rather than kill it. In 2001, the deer was reportedly wounded with a shotgun, and many believed he might have died, according to the website.

Well-known wildlife artist Larry Zach of Ankeny captured the animal in a painting.

"It's a real interesting buck. The rack kind of changed character over the years. When I painted the picture, the rack had that big, boxy classic look. They are incredible antlers," he said.

Zach, an avid bow hunter who has a farm in the area, said he's fantasized about the buck while sitting in his tree stand during past bow seasons.

"Bow hunters have a lot of time to fantasize. Having seen the buck and painted it, I would sometimes fantasize about it walking by, although that was a remote possibility," he said. "That's one fantasy that won't work anymore."

Ream, who helped measure the antlers, maintains that while one piece of the legend ends with the shooting of the buck, there's an opportunity for another. The deer has spread its genes to its offspring. That means future hunters stand a chance to come across a deer with similarly large antlers, said Ream, who also is director of records for the Missouri Big Bucks Club.

Dale Garner, a wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, said the deer's offspring could have spread many miles.

"We have had young bucks move as far as 80 miles from where they were tagged by us," he said. "The reputation for big bucks in that area has already driven up land prices. Anyone who has land in Monroe County or near that area will probably see the value go up again."

As word spread about the deer this week, national media companies and reporters from Texas, Missouri and Minnesota were seeking information. ESPN posted an article about the deer on its Web site Thursday evening calling it the "Iowa walking world record."

"The Albia buck has a huge impact and is of great importance in the whitetail world," said Ream. "People very seldom get their hands on that class of deer."

Zach had an opportunity to view the potential record antlers a few days ago. He said it is a little sad to see the legend end.

"In a way, I think when you really respect animals, even hunters, you appreciate that you took a life, but also appreciate that it is part of the scheme of things," he said.

The ability of Iowa to produce whitetail deer capable of growing trophy-size antlers is the result of game management and an excellent food source, say wildlife experts.

Iowa's main deer season are limited shotgun season which take place after the fall breeding season is over. Other states, such as Missouri, allow rifle hunting even during breeding season in the fall when the deer are more frenzied and susceptible.

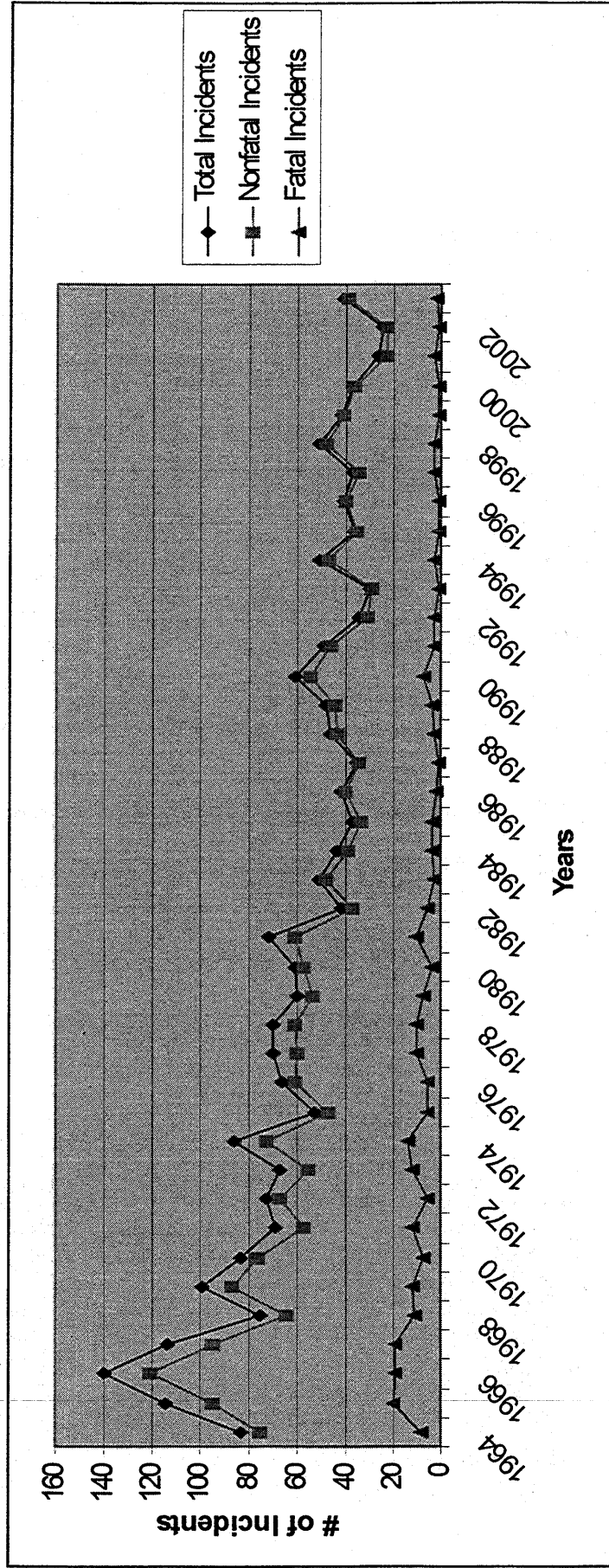
"That has allowed Iowa's bucks to grow to larger sizes. A deer has to be about 4 years old before it can deliver the calcium and other minerals it takes to grow large antlers," said Dale Ream. Iowa's agricultural base of corn and soybeans, along with the state's mineral content, contributes to the animals growth.

Antlers are shed from late December into January, said Dale Garner, wildlife biologist with the IDNR. Antlers begin to grow again in the late winter or early spring. A thin, soft skin, called velvet, covers the antlers as they grow. Once the blood supply stops, the velvet falls or is rubbed off by the deer sometime in August. Bucks lose their antlers as testosterone levels fall after breeding season.



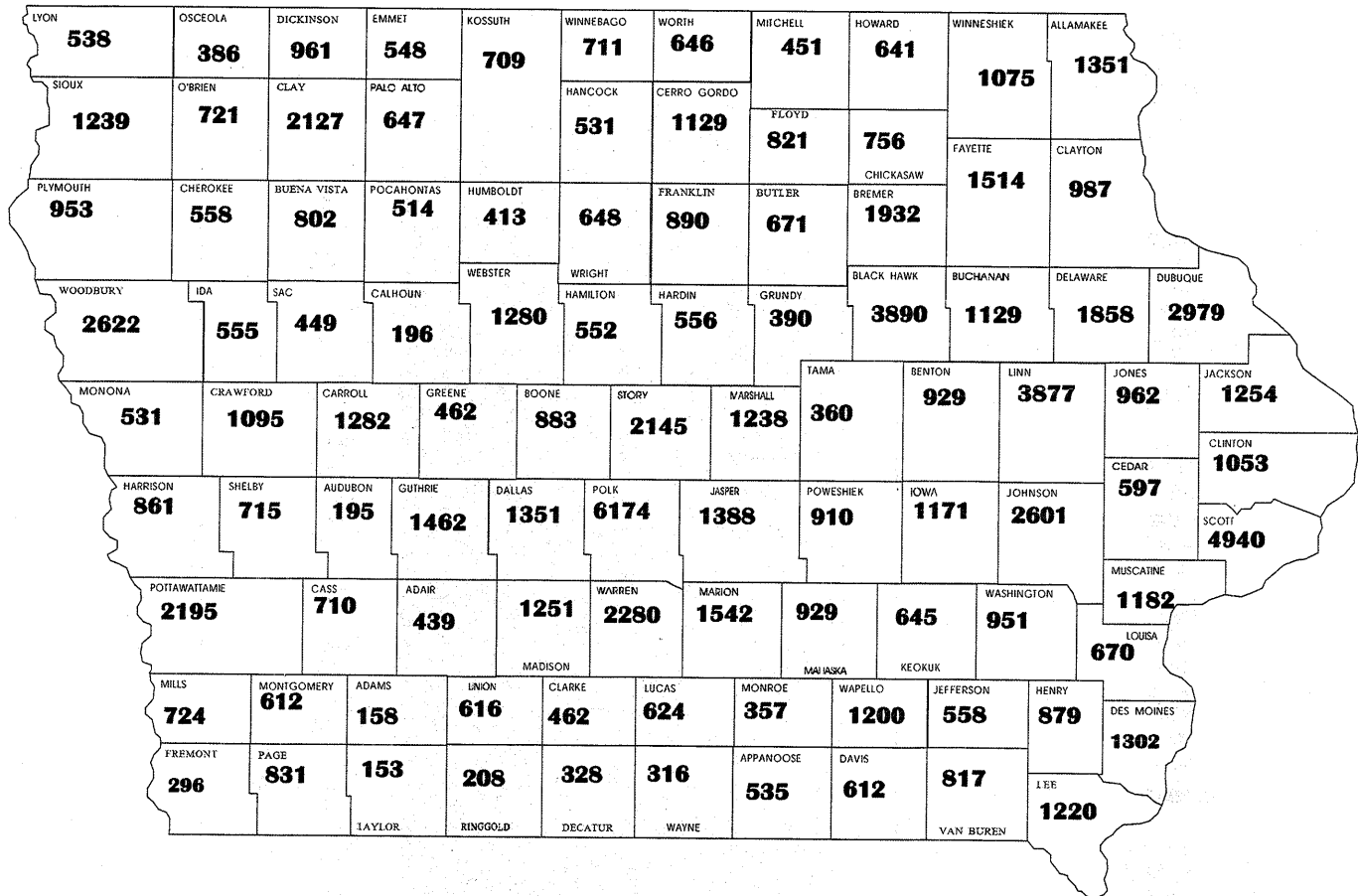
Sheds from last year

Iowa Hunting Incidents 1964 - 2003

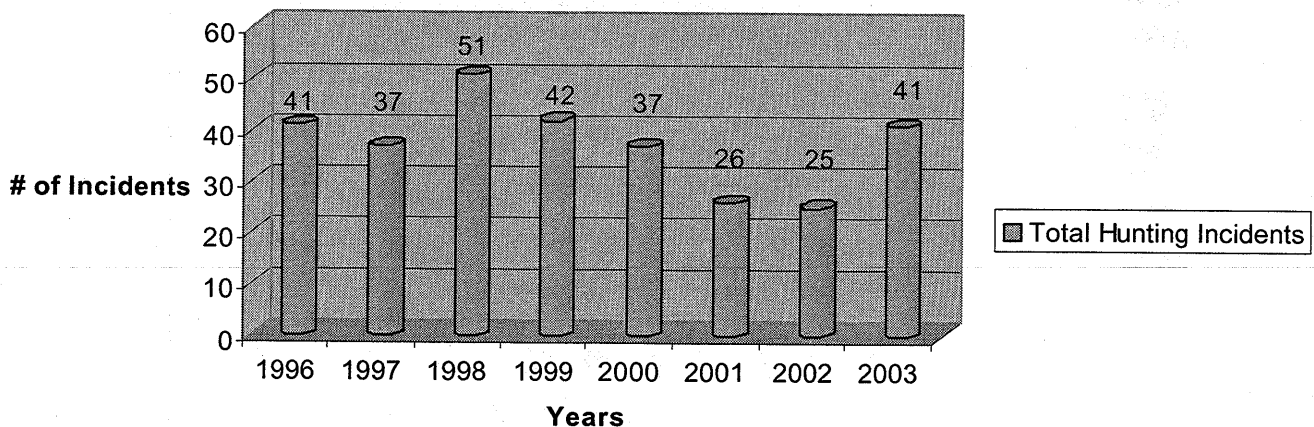


Hunter Safety Education Participation

From 1996-2003



Total Hunting Incidents

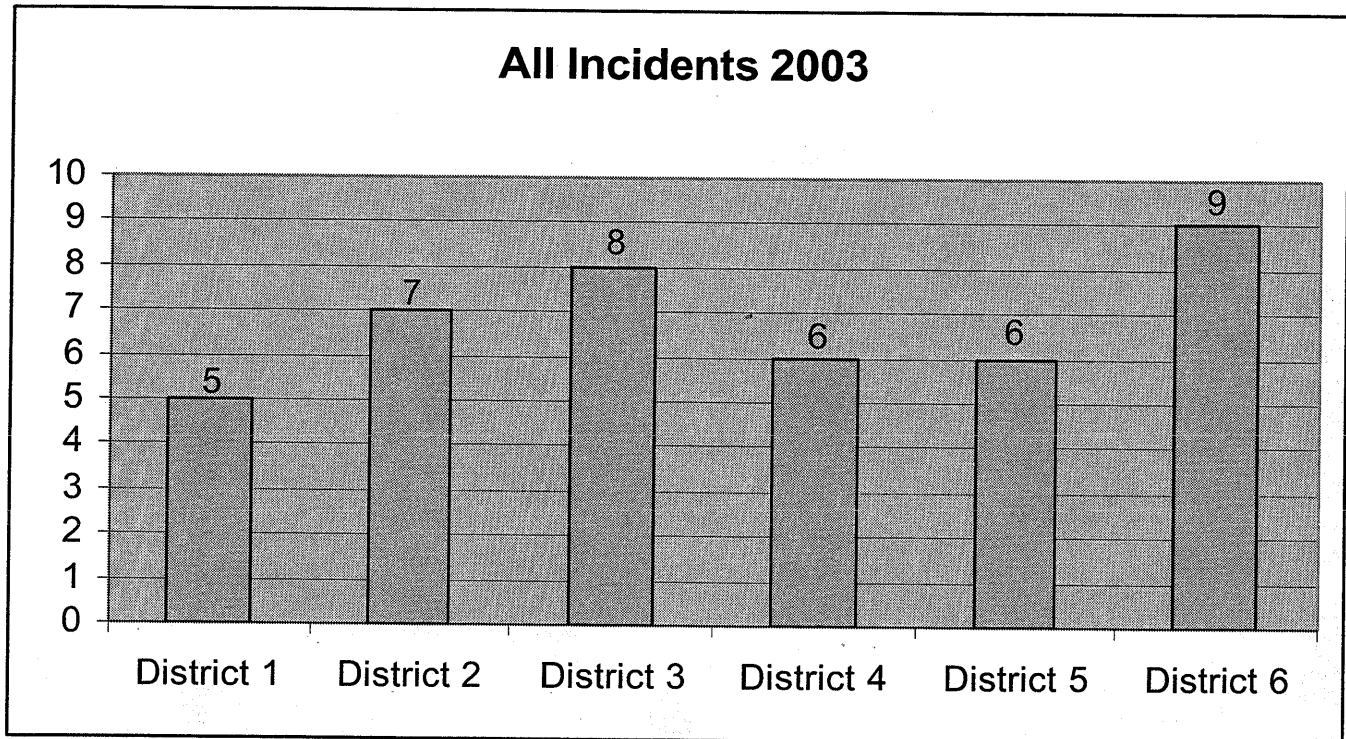


A map of Iowa divided into its 99 counties. Black dots represent non-fatal shooting locations, and two 'X' marks represent fatal shooting locations. The counties and their corresponding symbols are as follows:

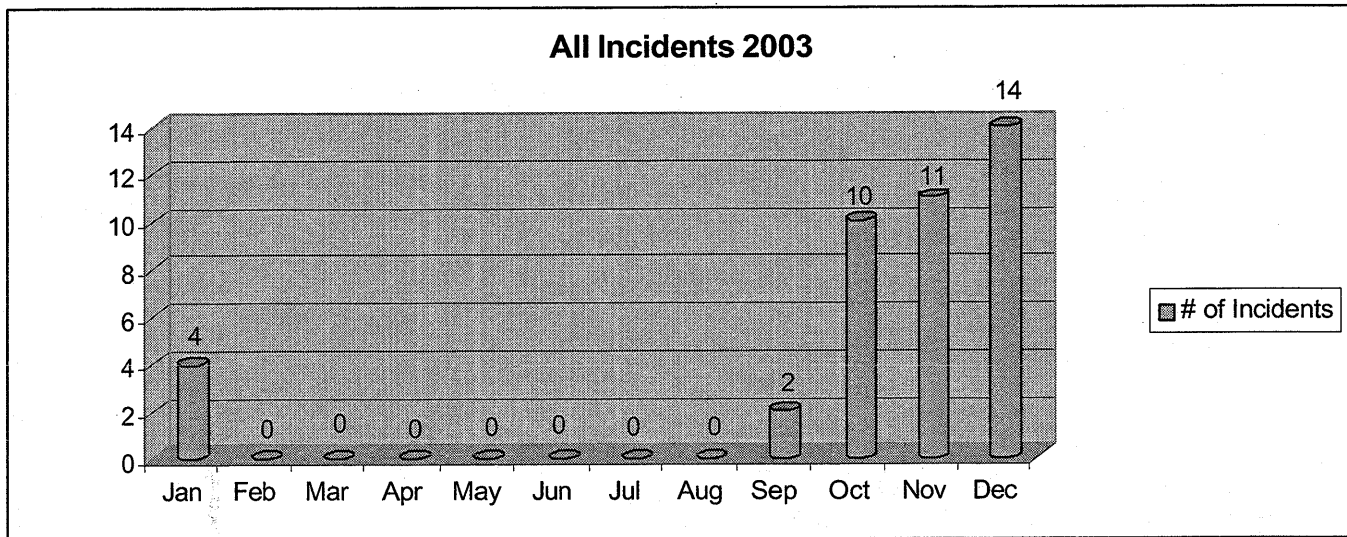
County	Symbol(s)
Allamakee	
Winnebago	
Howard	
Mitchell	
Worth	1 dot
Winnerago	1 dot
Kossuth	1 dot
Emmet	
Dickinson	
Osceola	
Iyon	
Clayton	1 dot
Fayette	1 dot
Chickasaw	1 dot
Bremer	
Black Hawk	
Buchanan	1 dot
Delaware	1 dot, 1 X
Dubuque	1 dot
Jones	
Cedar	1 dot
Muscatine	1 dot
Louisa	
Des Moines	1 dot
Lee	
Van Buren	1 dot
Jefferson	1 dot
Wapello	3 dots
Davis	1 dot
Appanoose	1 dot
Wayne	1 dot
Decatur	
Ringgold	
Taylor	1 dot
Fremont	
Page	1 dot
Mills	
Montgomery	
Adams	
Union	
Clarke	
Lucas	
Monroe	
Marion	
Warren	1 dot
Madison	1 dot
Cass	1 dot
Pottawattamie	1 dot
Harrison	
Shelby	2 dots
Audubon	1 dot
Guthrie	1 dot
Dallas	1 dot
Polk	
Jasper	
Marshall	1 dot
Story	
Boone	1 dot
Greene	
Carroll	
Crawford	
Monona	
Woodbury	1 dot
Ida	1 dot
Sac	1 dot, 1 X
Calhoun	
Pocahontas	
Humboldt	
Webster	
Hamilton	
Wright	1 dot
Franklin	
Butler	
Floyd	
Cerro Gordo	
Hardin	
Grundy	
Tama	
Benton	
Linn	
Johnson	
Iowa	3 dots
Poweshiek	2 dots
Washington	1 dot
Keokuk	
Maquoketa	

● Non-Fatal 35
X Fatal 2

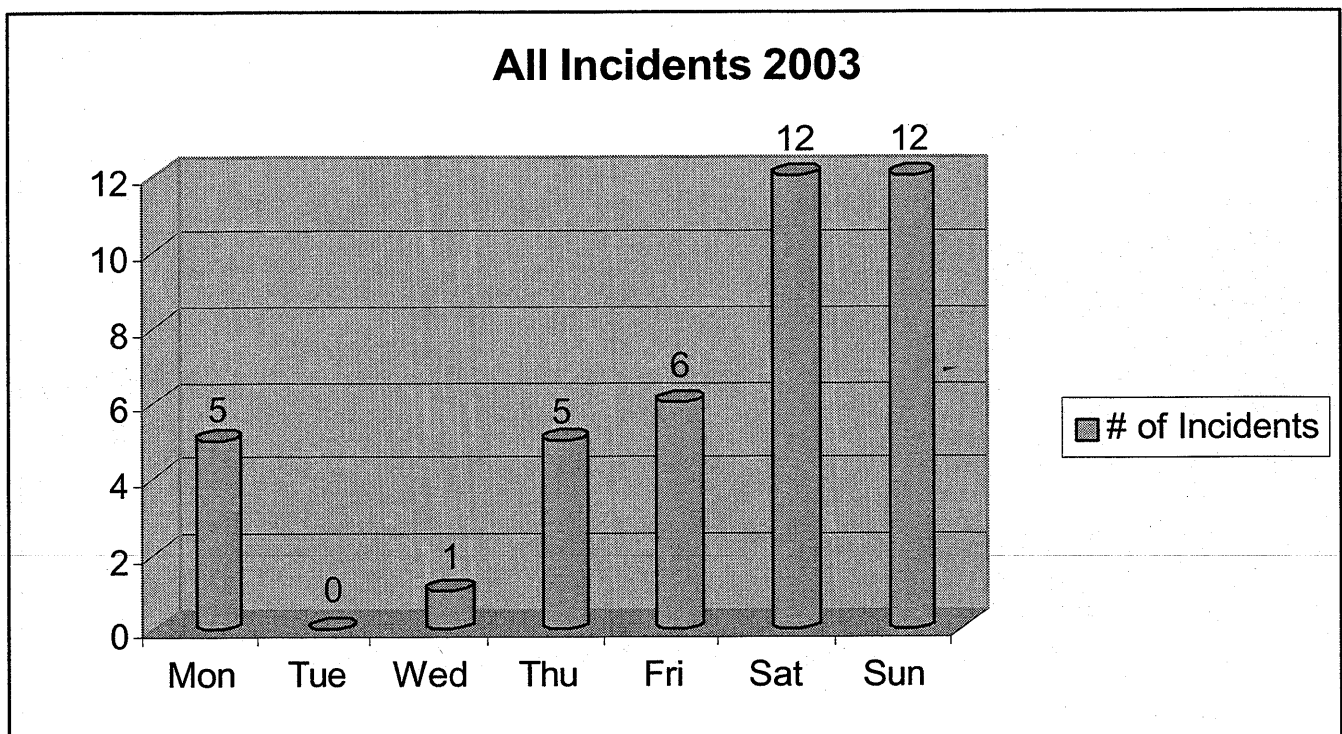
Hunting Incidents by District 2003



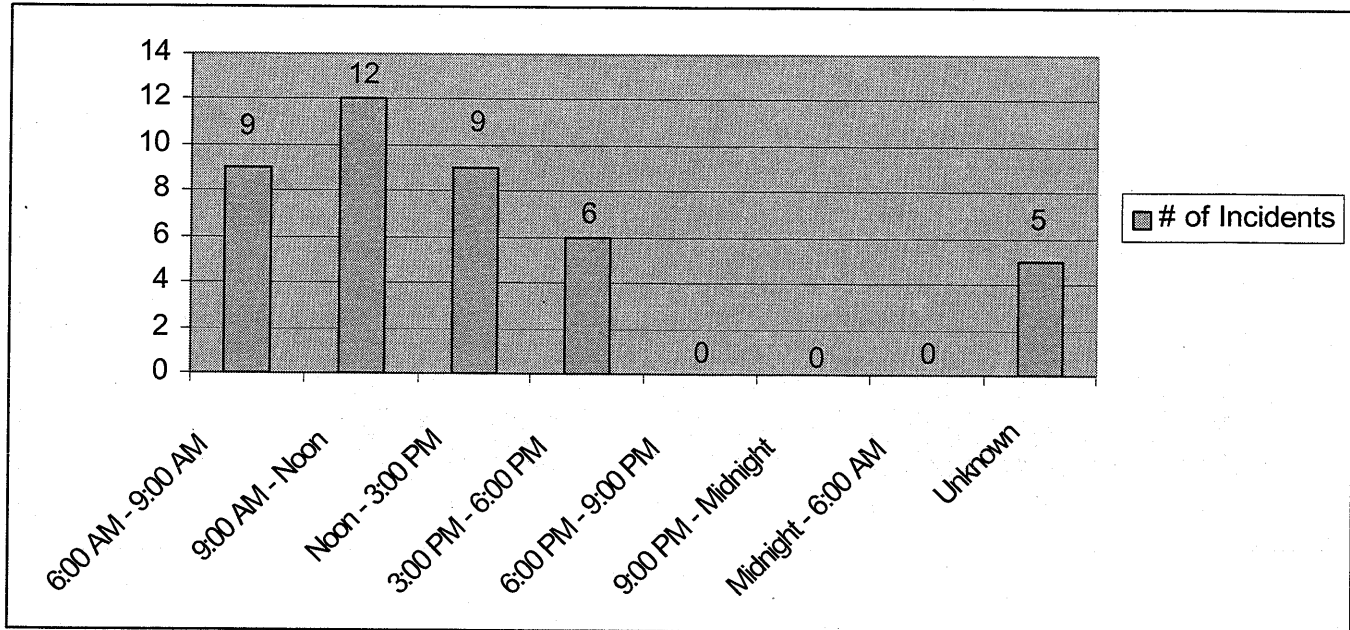
2003 Hunting Incidents by Month



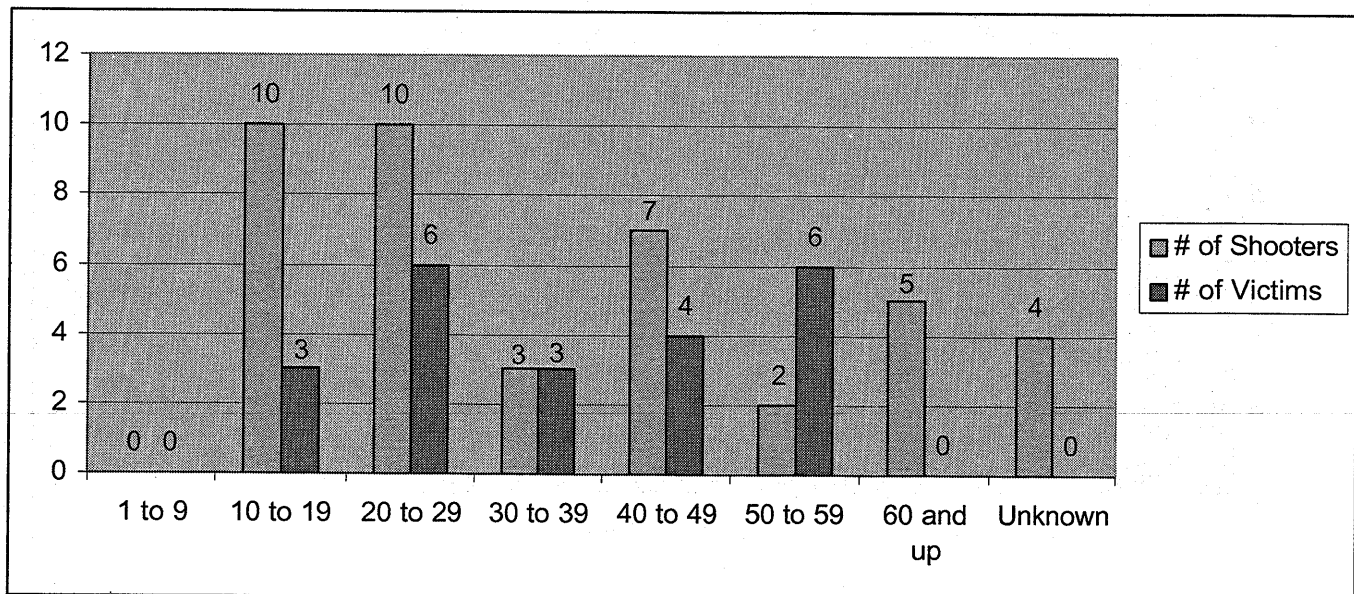
2003 Hunting Incidents by Day of Week



2003 Hunting Incidents by Time of Day

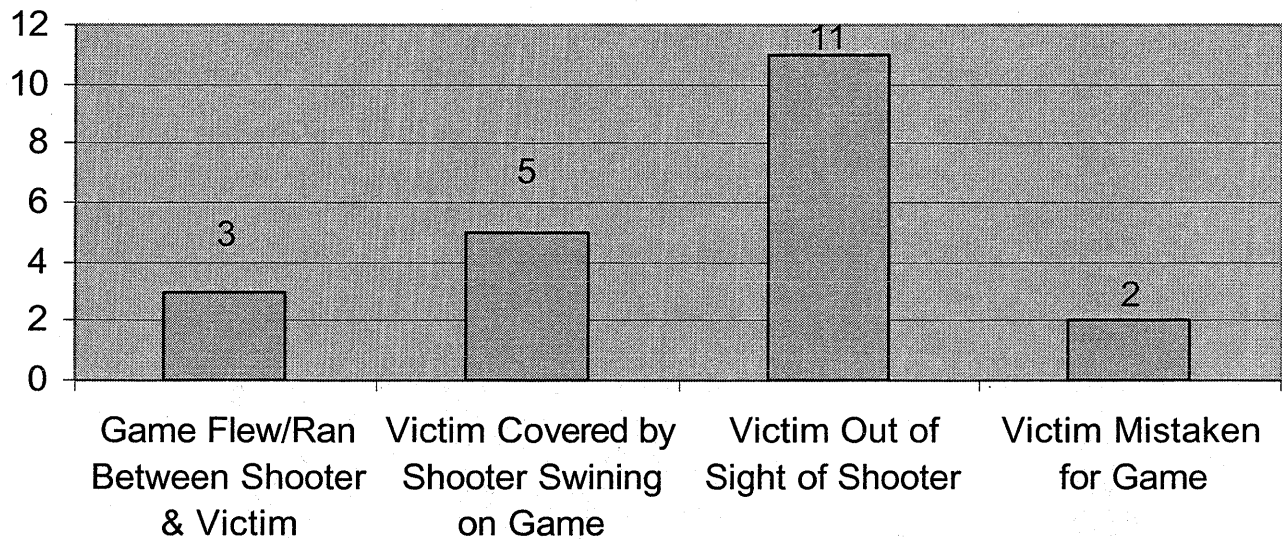


2003 Hunting Incidents by Age

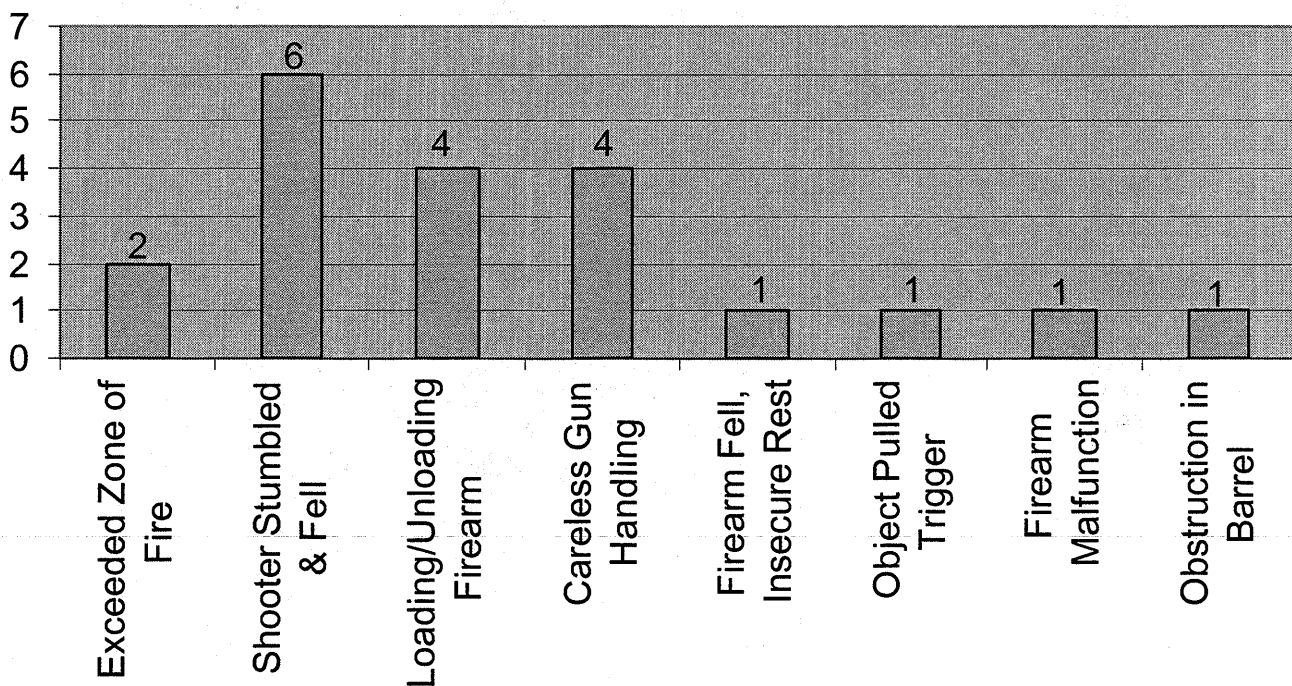


2003 Intentional Firing Vs. Unintentional Firing

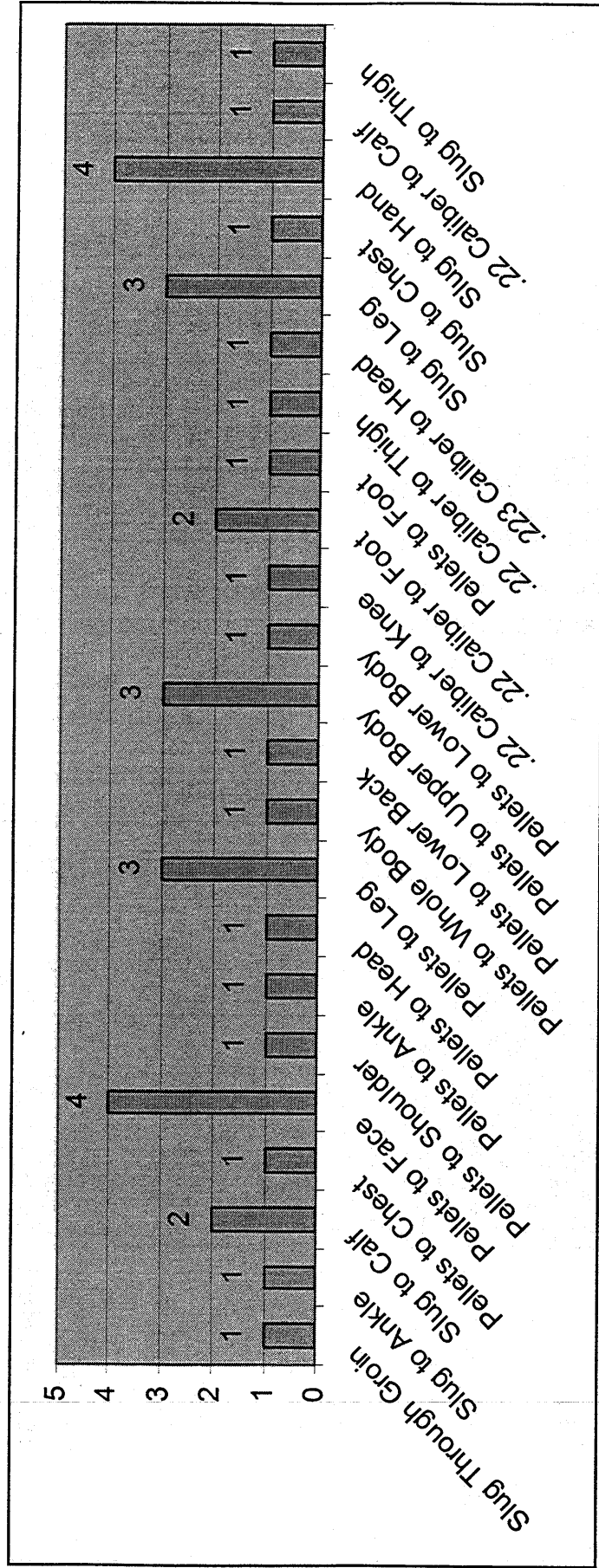
Intentional Firing All Incidents 2003



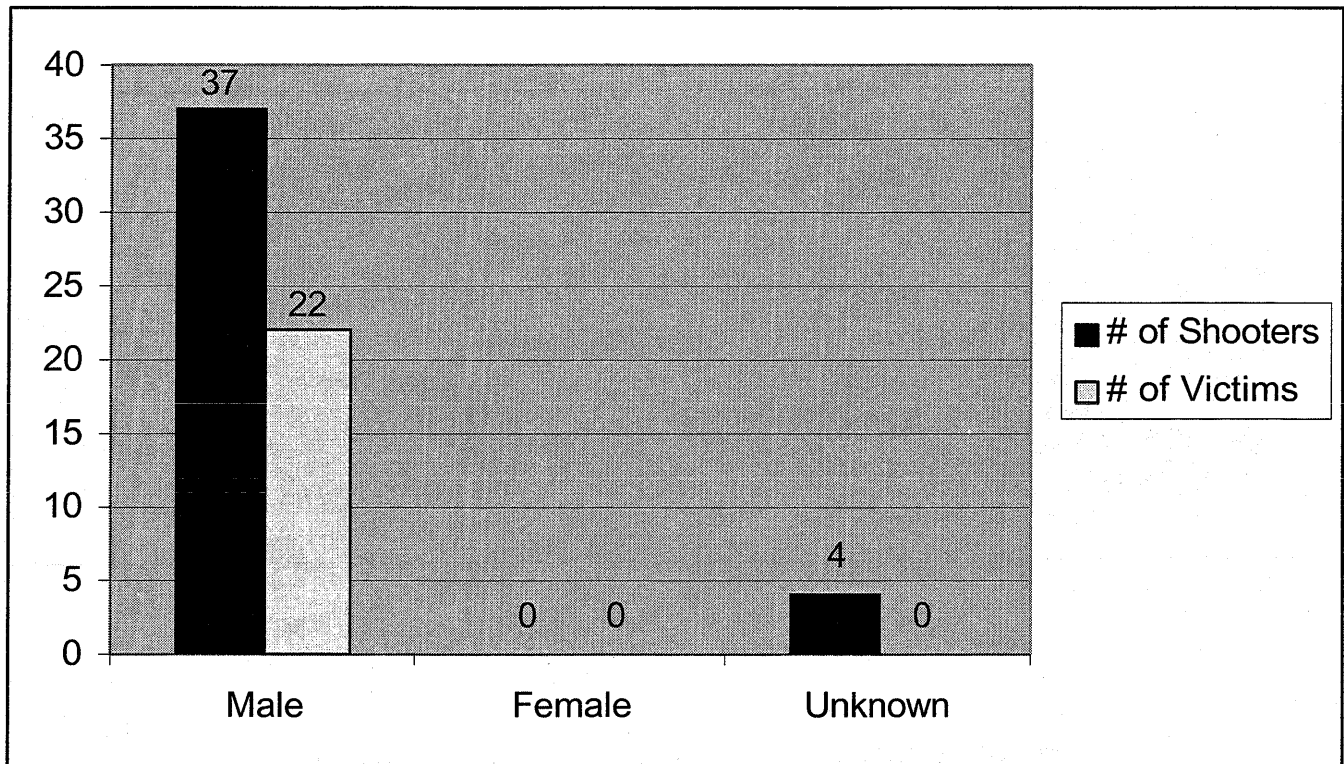
Unintentional Firing All Incidents 2003



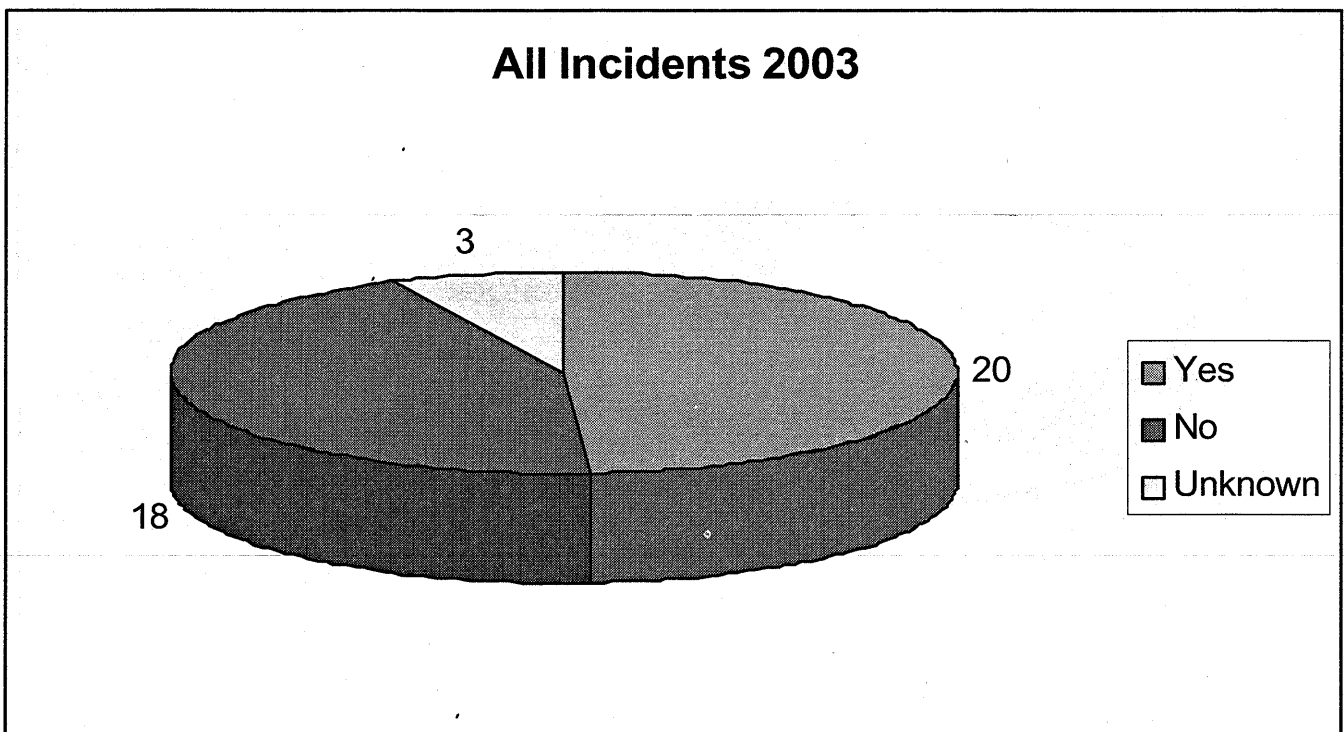
2003 Hunting Incident Injuries



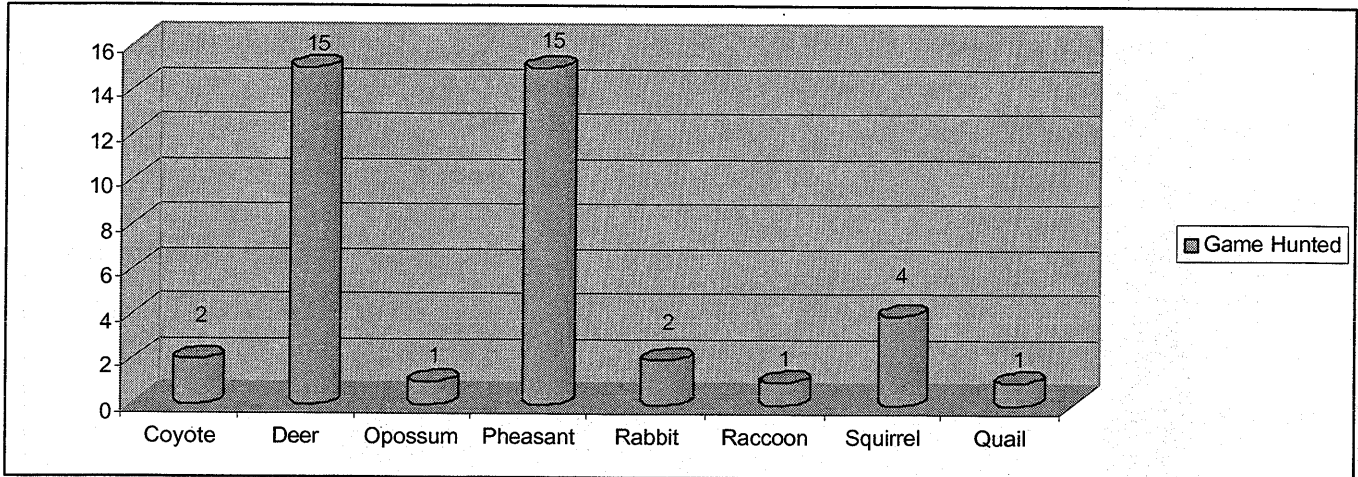
2003 Sex of Firearm Casualty



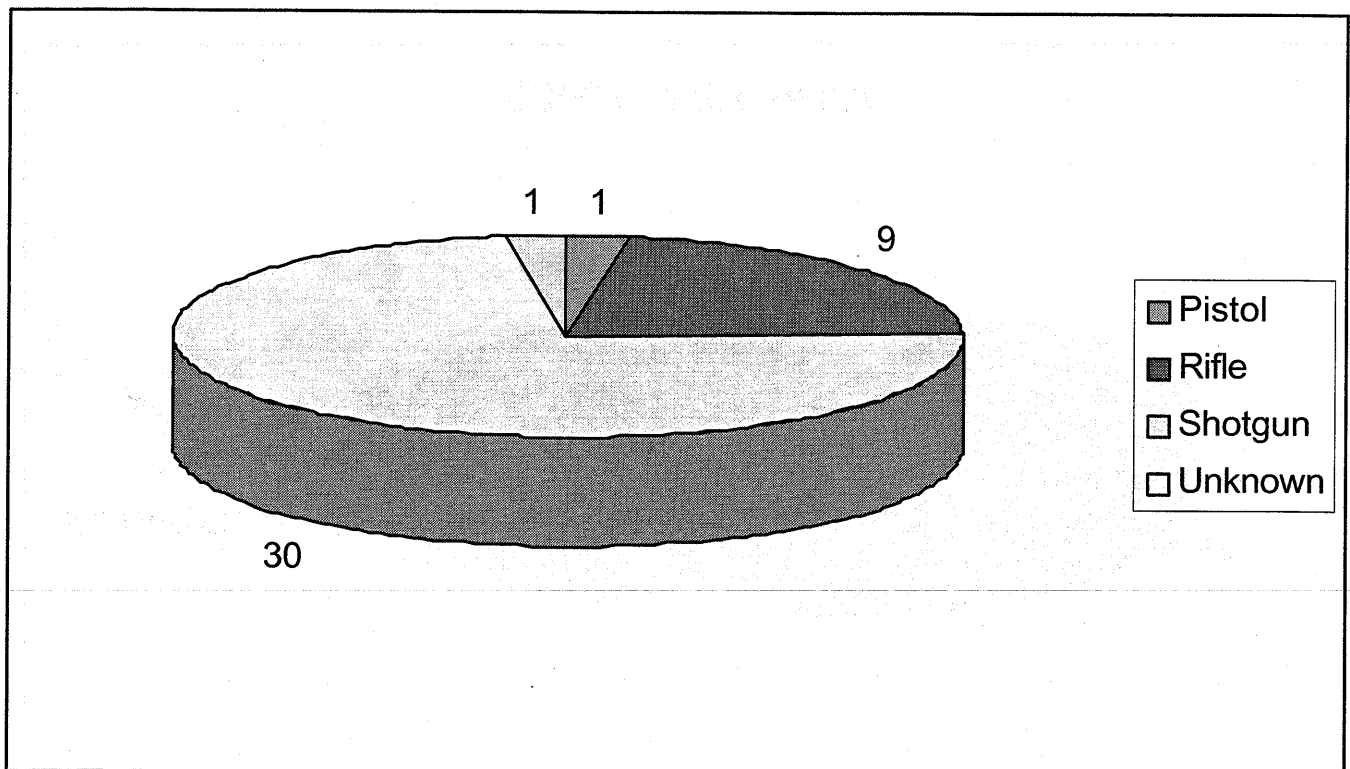
2003 Hunter Education Graduates Involved in Hunting Incidents



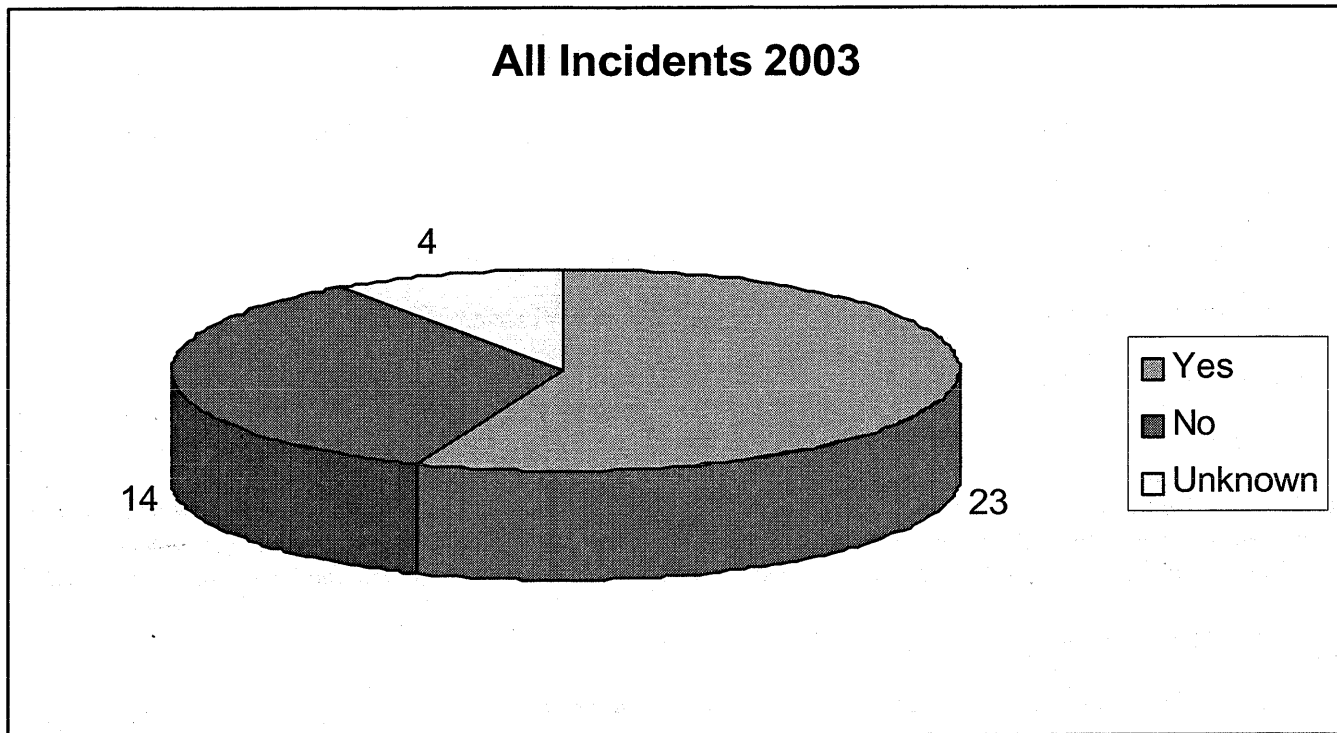
2003 Game Hunted



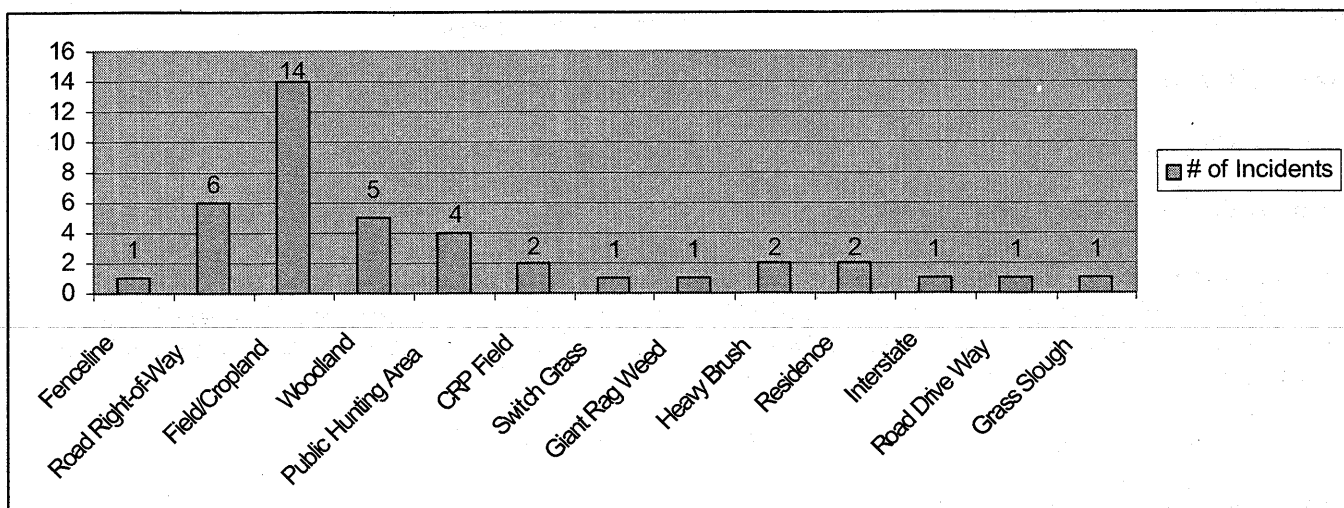
2003 Type of Firearm Used



2003 Blaze Orange Apparel Worn



2003 Type of Cover



Incident # 1

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 1/3/2003 (Friday)

County of Incident: Boone

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 46

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 35

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Whitetail Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 0

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Fenceline - open field

Firearm Used: Thompson Hawken - .45 caliber

Narrative: Victim was resting gun in a half-cocked or safe position on his foot in a tree stand during late deer season. When the victim turned, the gun fell off his foot onto the wooden platform and discharged into his left groin. The bullet entered his left groin, chipped the pelvis, and lodged near the kidney. Victim has made full recovery and the bullet was not removed.

Cause: Firearm fell, insecure rest.

Prevention: Control direction of muzzle at all times. Use a safe, secure rest.

.....
Incident # 2

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 1/9/2003 (Thursday)

County of Incident: Appanoose

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 61

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 5 with black powder

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: few inches

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Road right-of-way

Firearm Used: Knight Black Knight - .50 Caliber

Narrative: Victim saw some deer standing along the road in front of him. Victim stated that he was trying to get the muzzleloader under the steering wheel of his vehicle in which he was still sitting in when the gun discharged shooting himself in the ankle. Victim also stated that the gun had been previously capped but the case was fully unzipped while he had been driving.

Cause: Loaded and uncased firearm in the vehicle, careless or reckless gun handling

Prevention: Keep firearm unloaded while in vehicle.

Incident # 3

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 1/18/2003 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Shelby

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 23

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 9

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Game Hunted: Coyote

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: > 6"

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: Winchester 1300 - 12 Gauge

Narrative: Victim received a call on his CB that there was a coyote headed towards him. He was sitting in his pickup when he pulled his shotgun out of the case and as the muzzle crossed his right calf, it discharged hitting him in the rear top of his calf. The blast from the shotgun blew off his right leg from the knee down.

Cause: Loaded firearm in vehicle

Prevention: Keep firearm unloaded while in vehicle. Use proper muzzle control.

.....
Incident # 4

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury ()

Fatal (X)

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 1/31/2003 (Friday)

County of Incident: Delaware

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 64

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 55+

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Game Hunted: Rabbit

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 6-8 inches

Attempting to Bag Game: Unknown

Type of Cover: Woodland

Firearm Used: Springfield Armory M6 Survival - .22 Caliber/410

Narrative: The victim had been rabbit hunting. Based on the evidence, it appears that the victim, who had previous leg injuries, had either tripped over, or lost his balance while standing on the downed tree limb with the gun's safety off. The gun discharged a single .410 shot to the chest.

Cause: The combination of the victim's leg injury, loose fitting boots, slippery terrain and lack of a trigger guard on the firearm most likely influenced the sequence of events leading to the accident.

Prevention: Use proper muzzle control. Make sure your gun has a trigger guard.

Incident # 5

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: 09/27/2003 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Muscatine

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 29

Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: 35

Years Hunting Experience: 18

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Squirrel*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: ~120 yards

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Wooded Public Hunting Area*

Firearm Used: *Baikal Over & Under - 20 gauge*

Narrative: *Two brothers squirrel hunting at the State Wildlife Land Cedar Bottoms. Victim was shot in the forehead and corner of his eye.*

Cause: *Lack of communication between hunters, victim out of sight of shooter; victim moved into line of fire, game ran between shooter and victim*

Prevention: *Know what is beyond your target.*

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Incident # 6

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: 9/26/2003 (Friday)

County of Incident: Des Moines

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 28

Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: 22

Years Hunting Experience: 5

Blaze Orange Apparel: *No*

Game Hunted: *Squirrel*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 30 yards

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Wooded Public Hunting Area*

Firearm Used: *Mossberg 500A - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *Hunting squirrel at the Augusta Public Hunting area near Augusta. Shooter and victim split up. Shooter was sitting under tree when he heard barking and saw movement ~ 30 yards away and shoots. Victim was shot in the shoulder.*

Cause: *Victim is mistaken for game and out of sight of shooter.*

Prevention: *Identify your target before firing.*

Incident # 7

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (*X*)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: *10/25/2003 (Saturday)*

County of Incident: *Wright*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *26*

Hunter Education: *No*

Age: *N/A*

Years Hunting Experience: *0*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *No*

Game Hunted: *Pheasant*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *~6 inches*

Attempting to Bag Game: *No*

Type of Cover: *Field/Cropland*

Firearm Used: *Remington 870 Pump Shotgun - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *Victim tripped over shotgun lying on the ground in the tall grass. The gun discharged a load of #8 lead at close range (6 inches) causing major damage to the victim's right ankle.*

Cause: *Careless gun handling..*

Prevention: *Proper gun handling skills.*

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Incident # 8

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *10/25/2003 (Saturday)*

County of Incident: *Poweshiek*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *31*

Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: *27*

Years Hunting Experience: *10*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Pheasant*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *75 yards*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Field/Cropland*

Firearm Used: *Mossberg 500 - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *A group of hunters were hunting pheasant on some CRP land. Victim was hit with six pellets. 2 to the left side of the head, 1 in the adam's apple, 1 to the index finger of the right hand, and 2 to the chest that did not break skin.*

Cause: *Victim out of sight of the shooter, victim covered by shooter swinging on game*

Prevention: *Do not shoot outside of your safe zone of fire.*

Incident # 9

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/26/2003 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Marshall

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: Unknown Hunter Education: Unknown

Age: 16

Years Hunting Experience: Unknown

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: ~113 feet

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Wood edge near CRP Field

Firearm Used: 12 Gauge

Narrative: While walking out into a CRP Field Grandfather and Father of victim flushed a pheasant. Both were standing side by side both raised 12-gauge shotguns and fired. Striking the grandson/son in the face and chest. He also had just stepped out of the woods on the opposite side of the flushing bird approximately 113 feet from the shooters.

Cause: Shooter error. Concentrating on the game and did not know where the rest of their party was.

Prevention: Victim was the only one who was wearing blaze orange apparel. Should have been seen by shooters. Hunters need to remember to look beyond the game animal.

.....
Incident # 10

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/26/2003 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Palo Alto

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 17 Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 52

Years Hunting Experience: 7 years

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: ~30 yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Switch Grass

Firearm Used: Remington 870 Pump - 12 gauge

Narrative: Shooter was swinging on game and failed to see victim. Victim was across the creek at a distance of 30 yards and was standing in dense switch grass.

Cause: Victim was standing in tall switch grass cover, and was not seen by shooter.

Prevention: Always know where other members of your hunting party are located. Do not shoot unless you know.

Incident # 11

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 10/25/2003 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Kossuth

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 18

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 1

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 2 inches

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Road right-of-way

Firearm Used: Mossberg 835 Ulti-mag - 12 gauge

Narrative: Victim was walking a road ditch when he stumbled causing the barrel of the gun to fall to the ground. He steadied himself with the barrel of the gun on the ground causing it to become obstructed. Thinking that the safety was on, he reached down to clean out the gun with his left hand. The gun began to slip so he grabbed it firmer with his right hand hitting the trigger and shooting his left index finger.

Cause: Victim stumbled and fell, careless or reckless gun handling

Prevetion: Unload gun before checking barrel for obstructions.

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Incident # 12

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/27/2003 (Monday)

County of Incident: Poweshiek

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 41

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 37

Years Hunting Experience: 29

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 50-70 yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: Beretta 290 AL - 12 gauge

Narrative: Shooter shot at a pheasant that flew between himself and the victim. 8 pellets struck the victim on the left side of his leg.

Cause: Game flew between victim and shooter, victim covered by shooter swining on game, ricochet

Prevention: Always know where your hunting party is, don't exceed your safe zone of fire.

Incident # 13

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *10/29/2003 (Wednesday)*

County of Incident: *Washington*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *45*

Hunter Education: *No*

Age: *54*

Years Hunting Experience: *37*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *No*

Game Hunted: *Pheasant*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *40 yards*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Field/Cropland*

Firearm Used: *Browning B55 - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *Six hunters in the party and they decided to push a patch of standing corn. Four walked in a westerly direction through the corn towards two blockers. A rooster ran through the party and the shooter shot twice striking the victim with ~ 100 pellets in the backside from shoulder blades to calves.*

Cause: *Victim out of sight of shooter, game ran between shooter and victim*

Prevention: *Know what is beyond your target.*

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Incident # 14

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *10/26/2003 (Sunday)*

County of Incident: *Ida*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *23*

Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: *23*

Years Hunting Experience: *10*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Pheasant*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *30-40 yards*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Field/Cropland*

Firearm Used: *Benelli Nova - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *Members of a hunting party were hunting a grassy draw heading north. A pheasant got up in the middle of the draw and shots were fired. The victim was hit by three pellets. 1 pellet to the right eye, 1 to the right eye sinus cavity, 1 to the upper right forehead.*

Cause: *Victim out of sight of shooter, Victim covered by shooter swinging on game, Game flew between the shooter and the victim*

Prevention: *Do not shoot outside your safe zone of fire.*

Incident # 15

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *10/31/2003 (Friday)*

County of Incident: *Poweshiek*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *38*

Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: *41*

Years Hunting Experience: *30*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Pheasant*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *1 foot*

Attempting to Bag Game: *No*

Type of Cover: *Field/Cropland*

Firearm Used: *Winchester 140 - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *Shooter was picking up gun to unload, victim was sitting on tailgate. Shooters gun went off ricocheted off bed of pickup striking victim with 9 pellets in the lower back.*

Cause: *Muzzle not pointed in safe direction when unloading gun, unsafe or careless gun handling*

Prevention: *Always keep you gun pointed in a safe direction when loading and unloading.*

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Incident # 16

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *11/2/2003 (Sunday)*

County of Incident: *Hancock*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *18*

Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: *20*

Years Hunting Experience: *5*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Pheasant*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *~32 yards*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Giant Rag Weed - Farm Grove*

Firearm Used: *Coast to Coast Pump Shotgun - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *Victim took 11 pellets to the upper body from a shotgun pattern of 7 1/2 size lead shot from a distance of 32 yards through heavy cover (weeds).*

Cause: *Shooter swinging on game.*

Prevention: *Know where other members of hunting party are located prior to firing.*

Incident # 17

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *11/07/2003 (Friday)*

County of Incident: *Worth*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *37*

Hunter Education: *No*

Age: *11*

Years Hunting Experience: *30*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *No*

Game Hunted: *Pheasant*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *~40 yards*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Public Hunting Area*

Firearm Used: *Ruger Red Label - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *Father and son went hunting. The victim/son was wearing brown walking in tall grass. A pheasant got up in between the two and the shooter/father unsure of the exact position of the victim swung on the bird and hit him. The victim sustained 12 pellet wounds. 6 to the face and forehead, 5 to the chest and right arm, and 1 to the little finger.*

Cause: *No blaze orange - shooter didn't see victim, Game flew between shooter and victim, Victim covered by shooter swinging on game*

Prevention: *Know where your hunting partners are before firing. Wear blaze orange for upland game.*

.....
Incident # 18

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *11/6/2003 (Thursday)*

County of Incident: *Dubuque*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *63*

Hunter Education: *No*

Age: *59*

Years Hunting Experience: *50*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Pheasant*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *~38 yards*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Picked Cornfield*

Firearm Used: *LC Smith Field Grade - 16 gauge*

Narrative: *Four hunters went out hunting near Cascade. They were loosely lined up with 30-50 yards between each of them searching for a wounded bird. The bird jumped and flew low to the ground into the direction of the victim. The shooter fired, striking the victim in the legs, torso and arms. The victim was hit with a total of 29 pellets.*

Cause: *Victim wearing only blaze orange hat, Victim covered by shooter swinging on game*

Prevention: *Know where your hunting partners are before firing.*

Incident # 19

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 11/06/2003 (Thursday)

County of Incident: Cedar

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 17

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 10

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Game Hunted: Raccoon (Trapping)

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 4-6 inches

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Road Right-of-Way

Firearm Used: Bryco Arms Jennings Jr. LR - .22 caliber

Narrative: Victim was running his trap line when he came across a raccoon that was caught in one. He approached the raccoon, when he went to pull the trigger, the raccoon lunged at the victim. He slipped to the ground with his finger in the trigger guard and the barrel of the gun pointing towards his left knee. The gun discharged causing the bullet to enter above the left knee and then exit through the skin.

Cause: Game ran at victim, shooter stumbled and fell

Prevention: Control direction of your muzzle at all times.

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Incident # 20

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 11/13/2003 (Thursday)

County of Incident: Shelby

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 16

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 1

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Game Hunted: Opossum (Fur Harvester)

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 1 foot

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Road Right-of-Way

Firearm Used: Winchester 270 - .22 caliber

Narrative: Two fur harvesters were traveling down the road when an opossum crossed in front of them. The victim got out of the vehicle and started running after the animal. He tripped and fell causing the rifle to discharge shooting himself in the foot.

Cause: Victim stumbled and fell, careless or reckless gun handling.

Prevention: Control direction of your muzzle at all times. Do not run with firearm.

Incident # 21

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 11/16/2003 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Winnebago

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 46

Hunter Education: No

Age: 53

Years Hunting Experience: 35

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: ~60 yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: Western Field M550ABR - 12 gauge

Narrative: Three hunters were walking along a drainage ditch in thick ironweed trying to flush pheasants. They were not walking in a true straight line so when a pheasant flushed and the shooter swung on the game he hit the victim. The victim sustained two pellet wounds in the right upper bicep, one wound in the upper chest, one pellet between the left knuckles of the ring and small finger, and on in the right corner of his mouth that lodged in his tongue.

Cause: Victim out of sight of shooter, Victim moved in line of fire

Prevention: Better coordination of hunters in party and make sure you look and know what is beyond your target.

.....
Incident # 22

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 11/17/2003 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Guthrie

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 48

Hunter Education: No

Age: 41

Years Hunting Experience: 35

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 3 feet

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Road Right-of-Way

Firearm Used: Stevens 58 - 16 gauge

Narrative: Two hunters observed a rooster pheasant in the road ditch. The shooter parked the vehicle and opened the door on the drivers side and stepped out. As he attempted to remove the shotgun from its case and load it, the gun discharged through a plastic carton of milk and struck the victim in the foot. His foot sustained 46 pellet wounds and several surgeries will be required to remove pellets and to repair the damage to his foot.

Cause: Loading firearm, barrel not pointed in a safe direction when loading

Prevention: Better gun handling skills and keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction before loading.

Incident # 23

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: *11/9/2003 (Sunday)*

County of Incident: *Wapello*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *10*

Hunter Education: *No*

Age: *47*

Years Hunting Experience: *2*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Quail*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *unknown*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *CRP Land & Brush*

Firearm Used: *Stoeger Shotgun - 28 gauge*

Narrative: *While hunting in CRP & brush the shooter swung on flushed quail and shot victim on the left side of hip down to the knee.*

Cause: *Swinging on game.*

Prevention: *Look and know what is beyond your target and better communication between hunters.*

.....
Incident # 24

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: *11/16/2003 (Sunday)*

County of Incident: *Wapello*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *63*

Hunter Education: *No*

Age: *54*

Years Hunting Experience: *40*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *No*

Game Hunted: *Squirrel*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *unknown*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Heavy Brush*

Firearm Used: *Marlin 22 Mag - .22 caliber*

Narrative: *Shooter attempting to shoot game and ended up shooting victim through the right thigh. Victim was in heavy brush and not visible to the shooter.*

Cause: *Victim out of sight of shooter.*

Prevention: *Better communication between hunters, wearing blaze orange and identify your target and what is beyond it before shooting.*

Incident # 25

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 11/21/2003 (Friday)

County of Incident: Fayette

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 20

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 3

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Game Hunted: Squirrel

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: less than one inch

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Wooded Area

Firearm Used: Savage Mark II - .22 Caliber

Narrative: Victim was squirrel hunting with two friends. After taking a shot and missing, the victim rested the barrel of the gun on his shoe. He forgot to put the gun on safe and accidentally put his finger in the trigger guard and rested it against the trigger. The gun discharged striking him in the right foot, just behind his little toe.

Cause: Careless or reckless gun handling.

Prevention: Better gun handling skills. Never rest muzzle on foot.

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Incident # 26

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury ()

Fatal (X)

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 11/24/2003 (Monday)

County of Incident: Sac

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 23

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 31

Years Hunting Experience:

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Game Hunted: Coyote

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 139 yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: In pickup in open field

Firearm Used: Ruger Mini - 14 - Ranch .223 caliber

Narrative: Victim was hunting coyotes with friends after a fresh snow. Victim was in his vehicle in the field running a coyote to hunters on the road. As the coyote ran on the hill across the horizon, the shooter shot at it from the road.

Cause: Not knowing what is beyond your target and poor coordination of hunters.

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target and don't shoot at game running on the horizon. Also, better communication among hunters.

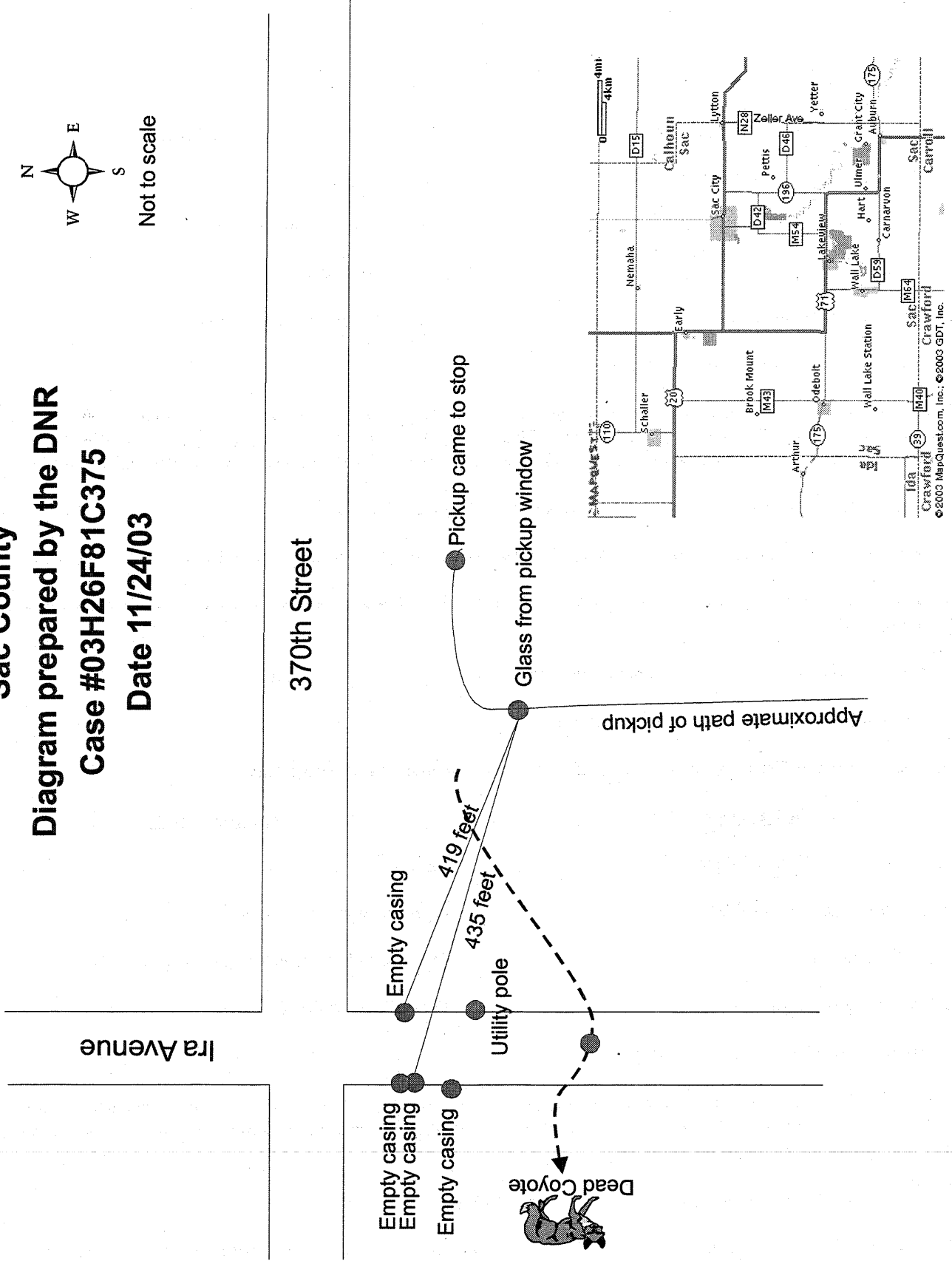
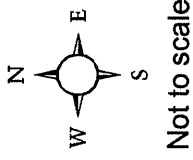
Fatal Hunting Accident

Sac County

Diagram prepared by the DNR

Case #03H26F81C375

Date 11/24/03



Incident # 27

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 12/06/2003 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Henry

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 20

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 58

Years Hunting Experience: 4

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 150 yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: Mossberg 500A - 12 gauge

Narrative: A group of nine hunters were executing their second drive. The shooter was a "driver" and was pushing to the north towards the standers. Two deer then walked out in front of the shooter and another member and both took a shot and missed. The shooters slug hit the victim in the lower left shin just above the ankle. The slug entered and exited the wound.

Cause: Victim out of sight of shooter, game ran between shooter and victim

Prevention: Know your zone of fire and what is beyond your target. Also, better communication between hunters.

.....
Incident # 28

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 12/6/2003 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Page

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 51

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 44

Years Hunting Experience: 36

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 160 yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Wooded Area

Firearm Used: Mossberg 835 - 12 gauge

Narrative: The victim and his son were standing on the west riverbank while the others were pushing deer towards them. The shooter was walking to the south when a doe deer approached him from the southwest. The shooter shot, missing the deer and hitting the victim in the right leg.

Cause: Victim out of sight of shooter, victim covered by shooter swinging on game

Prevention: Know your zone of fire and what is beyond your target. Also, better communication between hunters.

Incident # 29

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *12/6/2003 (Saturday)*

County of Incident: *Clayton*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *55*

Hunter Education: *No*

Age: *23*

Years Hunting Experience: *40*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Deer*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *unknown*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Timber/Brush*

Firearm Used: *12 gauge shotgun*

Narrative: *Ten hunters in a party. Three driving deer from south to north and four driving west to east while three are on stand at east end of farm along gravel road. Deer got squeezed into small area and ran in every direction.*

Cause: *Deer ran between shooter and victim.*

Prevention: *Better pre hunt plan. Know where people in your party are at. Know what's beyond your target.*

.....
Incident # 30

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *12/7/2003 (Sunday)*

County of Incident: *Warren*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *16*

Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: *15*

Years Hunting Experience: *3*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Deer*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *155 yards*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Wooded Area*

Firearm Used: *Mossberg 500A - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *Victim was to be standing by some hay bales next to a field entrance, and the shooter was going to push a stand of timber to him. The victim saw some deer and started to follow them, leaving the place he was suppose to be standing. The deer that the victim was following ended up in the field and the shooter took a shot because he thought it would be safe. He struck the victim in the upper left chest hitting the left lung.*

Cause: *Victim out of sight of the shooter, victim moved into the line of fire*

Prevention: *Know what's beyond your target. Plan your hunt, hunt your plan.*

Incident # 31

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/6/2003 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Woodbury

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 23

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 17

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: > than a foot

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Creek through a buffer strip in a cornfield.

Firearm Used: Mossberg Pump - 12 gauge

Narrative: Pheasant hunting a thin buffer strip along a creek. Crossed the creek, climbed up the other side. Something pulled the trigger and shot him in the right leg.

Cause: Climbing up on the bank of a creek - he says he had both hands on the gun so a stick must have pulled the trigger. Safety was not on and might have prevented the firearm from discharging.

Prevention: Muzzle control and always have the safety on when not shooting.

.....
Incident # 32

Property Damage (X)

Personal Injury ()

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/7/2003 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Guthrie

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: Unknown Hunter Education: Unknown

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: Unknown

Blaze Orange Apparel: Unknown

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Unknown

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Residence

Firearm Used: Unknown (20 gauge slug recovered from scene)

Narrative: On Sunday morning the owner of the residence was asleep in her bed when she was awakened by a crashing sound. She noted that the window had been broken and that a hole was located near the head of her bed. She was to frightened to immediately look for the source of the gun shot, and remained stationary for several minutes. Later she looked for but could not see any hunters or hunter vehicles. A slug was recovered from her wall.

Cause: Careless or reckless gun handling, Shooting without a backstop

Prevention: Knowing what is beyond your target.

Incident # 33

Property Damage (*X*)

Personal Injury ()

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: *12/8/2003 (Monday)*

County of Incident: *Adair*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *Unknown* Hunter Education: *Unknown*

Age: *N/A*

Years Hunting Experience: *Unknown*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Unknown*

Game Hunted: *Deer*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *Unknown*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Interstate 80*

Firearm Used: *Unknown*

Narrative: *Driver was headed east on Interstate 80 when his vehicle was struck by a shotgun slug. The slug passed through the windshield and exited through the passenger's side window. The driver pulled over and looked to the north side of the interstate and observed a group of hunters making a drive to the east. A couple of the hunters in the group had shot at a deer but it was unable to be determined if or which one of the hunters had actually shot the pickup.*

Cause: *Shooting without a backstop.*

Prevention: *Know what is beyond your target.*

.....
Incident # 34

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *12/28/2003 (Monday)*

County of Incident: *Wayne*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *22* Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: *23*

Years Hunting Experience: *8*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Deer*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *250+ yards*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Field/Cropland*

Firearm Used: *Sears Robuck 200 - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *The shooter shot at a big buck that ran between him and his brother (victim). The victim was just out of sight of the shooter who was over the hill.*

Cause: *Shot at running deer, victim out of sight of shooter*

Prevention: *Know what is beyond your target.*

Incident # 35

Property Damage (*X*)

Personal Injury ()

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: *12/8/2003 (Monday)*

County of Incident: *Wapello*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *15*

Hunter Education: *No*

Age: *N/A*

Years Hunting Experience: *2*

Blaze Orange Apparel:

Game Hunted: *Deer*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *Unknown*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Residence*

Firearm Used: *New England Single Shot - 20 gauge*

Narrative: *Shooter swung on deer and shot house.*

Cause: *Swinging on game.*

Prevention: *Know what is beyond your target before firing.*

.....
Incident # 36

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (*X*)

Date and Day of the Week: *12/13/2003 (Saturday)*

County of Incident: *Van Buren*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *60*

Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: *38*

Years Hunting Experience: *40*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Deer*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *35 yards*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Wooded Area*

Firearm Used: *Browning Gold - 16 gauge*

Narrative: *The shooter was on stand and the victim was approaching him on a deer drive. The shooter stated that he saw what he believed to be a white tail flash of a deer, and could see brown that he believed was a deer. He then fired once hitting the victim in the right leg just below the knee. The upper ends of the tibia and fibia were shattered, and the femur was intact.*

Cause: *Victim was mistaken for game.*

Prevention: *Identify target positively before shooting.*

Incident # 37

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (*X*)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: *12/07/2003 (Sunday)*

County of Incident: *Mahaska*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *45*

Hunter Education: *No*

Age: *N/A*

Years Hunting Experience: *35*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Deer*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *>1 inch*

Attempting to Bag Game: *No*

Type of Cover: *Public Hunting Area*

Firearm Used: *Remington 1100 - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *Victim/Shooter fell and lost control of firearm. Reached to pull firearm out of brush with right hand over muzzle, the firearm discharged as a stick had taken the safety off. Another stick must of went through the trigger guard and pulled the trigger.*

Cause: *Victim fell, trigger caught on object*

Prevention: *Better muzzle control. Don't cover muzzle with hand.*

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Incident # 38

Property Damage (*X*)

Personal Injury ()

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: *12/13/2003 (Sunday)*

County of Incident: *Chickasaw*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *18*

Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: *N/A*

Years Hunting Experience: *10*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *Yes*

Game Hunted: *Deer*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *less than an inch*

Attempting to Bag Game: *Yes*

Type of Cover: *Grass Slough*

Firearm Used: *Remington 1187 - 12 gauge*

Narrative: *Gun exploded.*

Cause: *Firearm malfunction*

Prevention: *To be determined by analysis of gun.*

Incident # 39

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/06/2003 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Iowa

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 45

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience:

Blaze Orange Apparel: Unknown

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: ~ 1 inch

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: Ithaca MD# 37 Deerslayer pump shotgun - 12 gauge

Narrative: Two hunters were hunting in a field. A deer ran out in front of the victim and he took a shot. He then heard a loud explosion and his left hand was blown away from the forearm down to his side. The shotgun had sustained severe functional damage. The forearm was broken and splintered, the receiver was badly warped, the shell arms were hanging out of the receiver and were broken, the forward end of the shell magazine had been blown open, and the barrel was loose.

Cause: Obstruction in barrel

Prevention: Make sure barrel is unobstructed before firing.

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Incident # 40

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 10/16/2003 (Thursday)

County of Incident: Buchanan

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 63

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 50

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: > inch

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Road driveway

Firearm Used: Hawkins - .50 caliber

Narrative: Victim took a shot at a deer. He missed so he went a head and reloaded. The victim then noticed that the ramrod was not secure so he reached up to push it in further. The muzzleloader discharged into his left hand. He sustained injury to his index and 3rd finger of his left hand. His index finger was amputated because of the damage.

Cause: Careless or reckless gun handling.

Prevention: Be familiar with firearm.

Incident # 41

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (*X*)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (*X*)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: *12/27/2003 (Saturday)*

County of Incident: *Adair*

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: *20*

Hunter Education: *Yes*

Age: *N/A*

Years Hunting Experience: *8*

Blaze Orange Apparel: *No*

Game Hunted: *Rabbit*

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: *3-6 inches*

Attempting to Bag Game: *No*

Type of Cover: *Road Right-of-Way*

Firearm Used: *Stevens 62 - .22 caliber*

Narrative: *Father and son were rabbit hunting along a gravel road. The victim attempted to cross a portion of "hog wire" in the ditch and tripped. As he tried to catch his balance, the rifle discharged. The bullet entered his upper left calf on the left side and traveled down to the lower right side of the calf where it exited without hitting any bone.*

Cause: *Shooter stumbled and fell.*

Prevetion: *Unload firearm before crossing obsticals.*

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